

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ZANZIB 00089 300652Z

ACTION AF-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ZANZIBAR 0089

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TZ

SUBJECT: CURRENT UNSETTLED ATMOSPHERE IN ZANZIBAR

1. THE ATMOSPHERE IN ZANZIBAR IS CURRENTLY UNSETTLED IN ANTICIPATION OF CABINET CHANGES WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED TODAY OR TOMMOROW (JUNE 29 OR 30). BECAUSE THERE WILL BE FEWER MINISTRIES UNDER THE NEW 3-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN WHICH GOES INTO EFFECT JULY 1 (FIVE MINISTRIES ARE SUPPOSED TO BE ABOLISHED); SOME PRESENT MINISTERS WILL LOSE THEIR JOBS(AND THUS THEIR POWER, PRIVILEGE,ETC.) COMPLETELY- RATHER THAN SIMPLY BE RESHUFFLED TO A NEW MINISTRY AS HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST. BECAUSE TANZANIAN VICE PRESIDENT/ZANZIBAR PRESIDENT ABU JUMBE HAS KEPT TO HIMSELF HIS PLAN FOR CHANGES,NO ONE SEEMS TO KNOW EXACTLY WHO WILL BE AFFECTED. AND BECAUSE THE CHANGES ARE EXPECTED TO REACH INTO THE JUNIOR MINISTER AND PRINCIPAL SECRETARY LEVELS, MANY PEOPLE ARE WORRIED.

2. THUS, RUMORS OF ALL SORTS ARE FLYING AROUND THE ISLAND FOR EXAMPLE:THAT RIFLE SHOTS WERE HEARD LAST SUNDAY NEAR THE BWAWANI HOTEL, THAT THE ARMY HAS BEEN OR WILL BE PUT ON ALERT, THAT ARMY TROOPS ON THE MAINLAND ARE ON STAND-BY, THAT
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ZANZIB 00089 300652Z

ADDITIONAL TROOPS HAVE BEEN SENT TO ZANZIBAR, THAT THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY,SHIEK THABIT KOMBO,WAS ARRESTED ON CORRUPTION CHARGES; AND OF COURSE A GREAT DEAL OF SPECULATION ABOUT WHO WILL BE MOVED OUT,UP, OR AROUND.(THE RUMOR ABOUT RIFLE SHOTS HAS SEEMED TO BE MORE PREVALENT IN NAIROBI THAN ZANZIBAR AND THE RUMOR ABOUT THABIT KOMBO'S ARREST WAS HEARD IN DAR.) THE RUMORS VARY FROM POSSIBLE(E.G.,THAT THERE

WILL BE A CURFEW)TO QUESTIONABLE (E.G., THE RUMORS ABOUT THE ARMY,WHICH SEEM PARTICULARLY UNLIKELY SINCE PLANS ARE PROCEEDING APACE TO SEND TWO AMERICAN BULL CALVES TO MAFIA ISLAND ABOARD TANZANIAN ARMY TRANSPORT PLANE TODAY OR TOMORROW) TO FALSE(E.G., THAT THABIT KOMBO,OR ANY OTHER MINISTER, HAS BEEN ARRESTED).

3.JUMBE IS HOLDING MEETINGS TODAY AND TOMORROW WITH TOP LEVEL ZANZIBAR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND CIVIL SERVANTS TO EXPLAIN THE NEW THREE YEAR PLAN (WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN PUBLISHED). ZANZIBARIS WORKING ON THE MAINLAND IN POSITIONS IN THE UNION GOVERNMENT(E.G., SEIF BAKARI, TANZANIAN JUNIOR MINISTER OF DEFENSE; ISAAC SEPETU, TANZANIAN MINISTER OF INFORMATION; A.S. NATEPE,MINISTER OF STATE AT THE PRESIDENTS OFFICE) ARE IN ZANZIBAR TO PARTICIPATE. THE CABINET AND OTHER PERSONNEL CHANGES ARE EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED SOMETIME DURING THE COURSE OF THESE MEETINGS.

4. JUMBE HAS THREATENED/PROMISED ZANZIBARIS THAT PERSONS FROM THE MAINLAND WILL BE BROUGHT IN AND ASSIGNED JOBS IN THE ZANZIBAR GOVERNMENT IF COMPETENT, QUALIFIED ZANZIBARIS CANNOT BE FOUND. THIS ADDS A FURTHER ELEMENT OF UNCERTAINTY TO THE SITUATION.THE PLACEMENT OF MAINLANDERS AS MINISTERS,JUNIOR MINISTERS OR PRINCIPAL SECRETARIES WOULD DRAW AN ADVERSE REACTION FROM THE MAJORITY OF ZANZIBARIS, ALTHOUGH THEY COULD ADJUST TO THE PRESENCE OF SOME MAINLANDERS IN MIDDLE-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ZANZIB 00089 300652Z

LEVEL MANAGEMENT POSITIONS. IF ZANZIBARIS NOW WORKING ON THE MAINLAND WERE TO BE NAMED MINISTER ON ZANZIBAR, THEY WOULD ENCOUNTER FEW PROBLEMS IN BEING ACCEPTED (ISAAC SEPETU IS OFTEN MENTIONED IN THIS CONNECTION).

5. COMMENT: KNOWLEDGEABLE OBSERVERS DISCOUNT THE RUMORS AS DUE TO THE OVER-ACTIVE IMAGINATION OF PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT. BUSINESS CONTINUES AS USUAL AND LOWER LEVEL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS (THOSE NOT INVOLVED IN THE

THE MEETINGS) AND EXPATRIATE TECHNICIANS ARE WORKING AS THEY WOULD NORMALLY. IT IS GENERALLY FELT THAT WHILE SOME OF THOSE "KICKED OUT" WILL BE DISAPPOINTED, FRUSTRATED AND UPSET; THEY HAVE NO POWER TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. THE CONSENSUS ON ZANZIBAR, WITH WHICH THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER CONCURS, IS THAT JUMBE'S PERSONNEL CHANGES WILL BE APPROVED AND ACCEPTED AND THAT THIS CURRENT STATE OF UNSETTLEDNESS WILL PASS QUICKLY AND QUIETLY ONCE THE CHANGES HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED. ANY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT IN THE SITUATION WILL OF COURSE BE REPORTED.SHIPPY

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